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General Assembly
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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Fifty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 29 August 2003 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israel, the occupying Power, continues to wage its brutal military campaign against the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. In particular, throughout the past week, the Israeli occupying forces have fervently resumed the barbaric and criminal campaign of extrajudicial killings. Yesterday, the occupying forces committed yet another extrajudicial killing in the Gaza Strip. Using helicopter gunship missile fire, the occupying forces killed a Palestinian man, Hamdi Adnan Kalakh, and wounded at least three other Palestinians in the Khan Yunis area. Following the killing, Israeli officials once again declared their intention to continue targeting Palestinians for execution, regardless of the fact that such actions constitute war crimes and violations of international law and international humanitarian law.

At the same time, the Israeli occupying forces continued to carry out other illegal measures and actions throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory. In the Beit Hanoun area of Gaza yesterday the occupying forces, using bulldozers and tanks, razed and destroyed large areas of farmland and orchards in collective punishment of the Palestinian population in the area. Indeed, it is being reported that the occupying forces are undertaking measures and preparations for even wider-scale military actions in the Gaza Strip. In addition, the occupying forces continue conducting raids and arresting Palestinians, particularly in the Nablus and Jenin areas. Among its actions in Jenin yesterday, the occupying forces also opened fire and wounded at least three Palestinian men.

Clearly, as the occupying forces continue to carry out this deadly military campaign against the Palestinian people, the grave situation on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, will continue to deteriorate. The ongoing policy of extrajudicial killings along with the continuing destruction of homes and property, ongoing colonial settlement activities, including the construction of the occupying Power's expansionist (annexation) wall, continuing restrictions on the freedom of movement of persons and goods, including

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the imposition of curfews, and recent measures with regard to Al-Haram Al-Sharif (Noble Sanctuary) in Occupied East Jerusalem, serve only to increase tensions and exacerbate an already inflamed situation. In light of this situation, the international community, particularly the Security Council, must undertake urgent measures to address such blatant Israeli violations of international law and to stem the perilous downward spiral of conditions on the ground and, in turn, of the peace process.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 170 letters to you regarding the crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 27 August 2003 (A/ES-10/232-S/2003/843), constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, it is my regret to inform you that, since my last letter, at least 4 Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces, raising the total number of martyrs to 2,516 Palestinians. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified thus far are contained in the annex to the present letter.)

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nasser **Al-Kidwa**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 29 August 2003 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem* (Wednesday, 27 August 2003, and Thursday, 28 August 2003)

Wednesday, 27 August 2003

1. Mustafa Mohammed Ali Salahat
2. Mohammed Ibrahim Ba'lousheh (17 years old)

Thursday, 28 August 2003

1. Sabra Salem Hamdiyeh
2. Hamdi Adnan Kalakh

* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 2,516.